

REMARKS

Consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

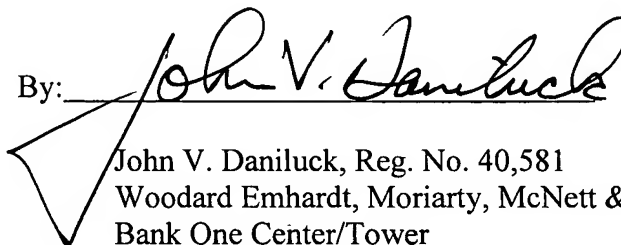
This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-33, 38-43, and 48-63, without prejudice to their consideration in a continuing application. These claims are cancelled without any effect of their pendency and issuance from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/040,871, filed March 18, 1998.

CLOSING

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-33, 38-43 and 48-63. Applicant respectfully requests examination of pending claims 34-37 and 44-47. The undersigned welcomes a telephonic interview with the Examiner, if the Examiner believes such an interview would facilitate review of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John V. Daniluck", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, there is a large, stylized checkmark or "V" shape drawn in the same ink.

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